

A'  
cont

peptidic nucleic acids. --

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

-- 7. (Amended) Conjugate as claimed in [one of the claims 1-5] claim 1,

wherein

the polymeric carrier comprises a chain which is composed of monomeric units which are selected from at least one of nucleotides, [or/and] nucleotide analogues and peptide nucleic acids. --

(NE) Claim 8, line 1, delete "one of the claims 1-5" and insert therefor --claim 7--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "or 8".

Claim 11, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

(NE) Claim 12, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 13, line 1, delete "one of the claims 1 to 11" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 16, line 1, delete "one of the previous claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 18, line 1, delete "one of the claims 1 to 15" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 19, line 1, delete "one of the claims 1 to 15" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 20, line 1, delete "one of the claims 1 to 15" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

(NE) Claim 21, line 2, delete "one of the claims 1 to 20" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 23, line 1, delete "or 22".

Claim 24, line 1, delete "or 22".

Claim 25, line 1, delete ", 22 or 24".

A<sup>3</sup>  
-- 27. (Amended) [Use of] A method using the conjugates as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 20] claim 1 as an antigen in an immunological method or for nucleic acid diagnostics. --

Claim 28, line 1, delete "Use as claimed in" and insert therefor --The method of--.

A<sup>4</sup>  
-- 29. (Amended) [Use as claimed in] The method of claim 27 [or 28] in a competitive immunoassay. --

-- 30. (Amended) [Use as claimed in] The method of claim 27 [or 28] in an immunoassay for detecting specific antibodies. --

(NE) Claim 31, lines 7 and 8, delete "one of the claims 1 to 16" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 33, line 8, delete "one of the claims 1 to 20" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 35, lines 6 and 7, delete "one of the claims 1 to 20" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 36, line 15, delete "a" and insert --the--;

line 15 and 16, delete "as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 20" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 38, line 1, delete "or 37".

#### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated May 5, 1997, and submit the amendments above and the remarks to follow as a full and complete response